

# Child Sex Tourists

Fact Sheet  
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**Michael Lewis Clark, 70 / Cambodia:** On Sept. 24, 2003, a federal grand jury in Seattle charged Michael Lewis Clark with child sex tourism violations of the Protect Act. This case represents the first child sex tourism case in the nation brought under the Protect Act. Clark was arrested in Cambodia by Cambodian authorities in June 2003 for engaging in illegal sexual activity with two boys aged 10 and 13. The subsequent investigation by ICE and Cambodian authorities determined Clark may have molested as many as 50 children in Cambodia in recent years. Cambodian authorities removed Clark and had him flown to the United States. On March 19, 2004, Clark pleaded guilty to engaging in and attempting to engage in illicit sexual conduct with minors in foreign places. The U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington, denied his attorney's constitutional appeal of the child sex tourism provisions of the Protect Act. On June 25, 2004, Clark was sentenced to 97 months in jail.

**John W. Seljan, 85 / Philippines:** In Oct. 2003, John W. Seljan, 85, was arrested in Los Angeles as he attempted to board a flight to the Philippines, where he allegedly intended to have sex with two Philippine girls ages 9 and 12. At the time of his arrest, Seljan was found to have pornographic materials, sexual aids, and nearly 100 pounds of chocolates in his luggage, as well as currency. The ICE probe began in Aug. 2003 after border inspectors intercepted correspondence to the Philippine girls indicating that he planned to have sex with the girls there. On March 28, 2005, John W. Seljan was sentenced to 20 years in prison for six counts related to child sex tourism. In addition, Seljan will be required to register as a sex offender and must remain under court supervision for the rest of his life.

**Gary Evans Jackson, 56 / Cambodia:** On Nov. 20, 2003, a federal grand jury in Seattle charged Gary Evans Jackson, 56, with child sex tourism violations of the PROTECT Act. Jackson was arrested by Cambodian authorities in Sept. 1, 2003 on charges of engaging in illegal sexual conduct with 3 males between the ages of 10 and 15 years old in Cambodia. Cambodian authorities removed Jackson and had him flown to the United States. On June 23, 2004, Jackson pleaded guilty to charges.

**Richard Arthur Schmidt, 61 / Cambodia:** On Feb. 20, 2004, Schmidt arrived at Dulles International Airport accompanied by ICE agents on a flight from Asia. He has been charged in a 10-count federal indictment in Baltimore with multiple violations of the PROTECT Act involving the molestation of minor boys in the Philippines and Cambodia. Schmidt had previously been convicted of child sex crimes in Maryland three times. In 2000, he was released on parole in Maryland after serving 13 years of an 18-year sentence. In Dec. 2003, ICE agents in Bangkok learned that Schmidt had

been subsequently arrested in the Philippines and Cambodia for sexually molesting young boys. Schmidt had been released when first charged in Cambodia with molesting two boys, but was arrested again only days later after it was determined he had molested another Cambodian boy. Schmidt was expelled from Cambodia into U.S. custody. Schmidt pleaded guilty on July 8, 2004. On May 25, 2005, Schmidt was sentenced to 15 years in prison followed by supervised release for life in connection with his guilty plea.

**Gregory Kapordelis, 43 / Russia:** In April 2004, ICE agents arrested Kapordelis at JFK Airport in New York upon his arrival from Russia. Kapordelis, the chief of Anesthesiology at a medical facility in Georgia and a physician at summer camps in the area, was arrested on a criminal complaint alleging that he traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia, several times to engage in sex with several juveniles. Some of the juveniles were as young as 12. In some cases, Kapordelis is alleged to have drugged the children prior to sodomizing them. This was a joint investigation by ICE Attaché Moscow, ICE SAC New York, St. Petersburg, Russia police, and INTERPOL. Kapordelis has been on house arrest since June 2004, after violating bond.

**Timothy Ronald Obert, 36 / Costa Rica:** On June 23, 2004, ICE agents arrested Obert at his residence in Santa Cruz, CA. Obert is alleged to have engaged in sexual relations with a minor in Costa Rica while serving there as a Peace Corps volunteer and to have provided the minor with money, drugs, and alcohol in connection with the sex acts. Obert's resumé shows that he had repeatedly sought and obtained positions working with underprivileged children, having worked in Nicaragua and Honduras in addition to Costa Rica.

**Sebastian Sarraute, 30 / United States & Mexico:** On Sept. 22, 2004, ICE agents arrested Sarraute at the Tucson, AZ, airport as he arrived in the U.S. from France. The arrest is the culmination of a yearlong investigation by ICE. Agents say Sarraute, a French national, believed he was coming to Tucson to finalize plans to travel to Mexico to have sex with girls who ranged in age from 10 to 14 years old.

**Manfred Knittel, 53/ United States & Mexico:** On Oct. 31, 2004, ICE agents arrested Knittel at the Tucson, AZ, airport as he arrived in the U.S. from Germany. The arrest is the culmination of a yearlong investigation by ICE. Agents say Knittel, a German national, believed he was coming to Tucson to finalize plans to travel to Mexico to have sex with girls who ranged in age from six to 11 years old.

**Walter Schirra, 54 / Thailand:** On Nov. 6, 2004, ICE agents arrested Walter Schirra at a San Francisco airport as he was about to board an Eva Airways flight to Thailand where he allegedly intended to solicit sex with underage

boys. A search of his luggage revealed photos of shirtless 12-14 year old Asian boys, large amounts of candy, as well as prescription drugs and other aids designed to enhance sexual pleasure. ICE agents also executed a search warrant at Schirra's residence, where they initially found approximately 15-20 images of child pornography on his computer and seized computers and computer media for further analysis. The arrest was the culmination of a three-month investigation by ICE. During the investigation, agents discovered Schirra had traveled to Thailand in May 2004, and planned to travel there again in November 2004.

**Edilberto Datan, 60 / The Philippines:** On Nov. 19, 2004, Edilberto Datan was indicted on child sex tourism and charges of producing, importing, and possessing child pornography. Datan had been arrested on November 4 as he returned from a two-month trip to the Philippines. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at Los Angeles International Airport contacted ICE agents after finding computer memory sticks taped inside a jeans pocket in the San Diego man's luggage. A fourth memory stick was later found; and a review of the material contained on the four memory sticks showed that they contained approximately 100 sexually explicit images of Filipino boys. A search of Datan's home also revealed an extensive child pornography collection. Datan pleaded guilty in March 2005, admitting he had sex with four Filipino boys. Datan also pleaded guilty to producing child pornography outside the United States. On June 17, 2005, Datan was sentenced to 17 years in federal prison and lifetime supervision. In addition, Datan will be required to pay restitution to his victims.

**Bernard Lawrence Russell, 37 / Philippines:** On Dec. 3, 2004, Bernard Russell was charged in San Diego, Calif. in a three count indictment with traveling in foreign commerce with intent to engage in a sexual act with a juvenile, producing child pornography, and possessing child pornography for importation into the United States. The indictment alleges that Russell traveled to the Philippines in October 2002 with the intent to engage in sexual activity with minors, and that he produced child pornography while there. Russell was convicted on April 22, 2005.

**Kent Frank, 48 / Cambodia:** On Dec. 5, 2004, Kent Frank was arrested in Seattle, WA, as he returned from a trip to Cambodia. The charges against him stem from an Oct. 7 indictment for nine counts related to his activities with four minors between Sept. 2003 and Jan. 2004. The charges include child sex tourism and purchasing minors for the purpose of promoting the engaging of sexually explicit conduct. Trial is scheduled for March 2006.

**Lester Christian Weber, 50 / Kenya:** On Feb. 17, 2005, Lester Weber was arraigned on a seven-count indictment alleging that he traveled to Kenya last year where he knowingly engaged in a sexual act with two victims

**under the age of 12. The indictment also charges Weber with aggravated sexual abuse, using the Internet to entice a minor to engage in sexual acts, and possession and transportation of child pornography. ICE agents worked closely with Kenyan National Police as part of the investigation. Weber was convicted on April 25, 2005 and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.**

**Karl Kaechele, 62 / Asian countries: On May 9, 2005, Karl Kaechele will be arraigned following an investigation conducted by ICE. Karl Kaechele, 62, was indicted for allegedly engaging in sex tourism. He is accused of traveling to several Asian countries to knowingly engage in sexual acts with victims ranging between 7 to 15 years of age. An examination of Kaelchele's possessions revealed nine packets of photographs, which included child pornography. Also discovered were large journals containing details of sexual encounters with females, many under the age of 15.**

**# ICE #**

**U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.**